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LETTER DATED 5 OCTOBER 1998 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF PORTUGAL, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour to transmit herewith the texts of the statement of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the three Observer States to the Angolan peace process on the situation in Angola dated 24 September 1998 and of their letter sent the same day to Mr. Jonas Savimbi, leader of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. MONTEIRO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Portugal to the United Nations

(Signed) S. LAVROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation to
the United Nations

(Signed) P. BURLEIGH
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
United States of America to the
United Nations

Annex I

Statement by the Troika Foreign Ministers of the Observer States to the Lusaka Protocol issued on 24 September 1998

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the three Observer States to the Angolan peace process - Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States of America (the Troika) - met on 24 September 1998 at United Nations Headquarters to discuss the critical situation in Angola.

In view of the latest events in Angola, the Troika:

- Stresses that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Angola, and calls on the Government of Angola and the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) to seek a political settlement;

- Underlines the validity of the "Acordos de Paz", the Lusaka Protocol and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions as the fundamental basis of the peace process;

- Demands that UNITA comply immediately and without conditions with its obligations under the Lusaka Protocol and cease all its military activity;

- Expresses its strong support for the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative, Mr. Issa Diallo, to reinvigorate the peace process through consultations with the Angolan Government and UNITA;

- Appeals to the United Nations Security Council to continue its engagement in the peace process in Angola and to maintain an appropriate presence of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola in support of the peace process.

Annex II

Letter dated 24 September 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Secretary of State of the United States addressed to Dr. Jonas Savimbi

We wish to express our profound concern over recent reports of renewed fighting in Lunda Norte, Uige and elsewhere in Angola. As the Troika of Observers to the Lusaka peace process, we are troubled by the prospect of the Angolan people again having to confront the devastation and human suffering that accompanied the two-year long civil conflict that followed the elections in 1992.

All-out war is not inevitable. Another round of hostilities can be avoided if UNITA honours the commitments it made at the Lusaka negotiations in 1994. You and UNITA have proposed several timetables for allowing the unconditional extension of state administration throughout Angola. Yet, today the towns of Andulo, Bailundo, Mungo and N'Harea remain under UNITA control. Moreover, in the course of the past six months, UNITA troops have retaken towns that had been turned over to state administration previously. The demilitarization of UNITA called for in the Lusaka Protocol has not been completed. For its part, the Government of Angola has largely fulfilled its obligations under the Lusaka Protocol.

The international community has invested considerable resources, time and energy in negotiating and implementing the Lusaka Protocol. As members of the Troika, we remain committed to bringing an end to the fighting that has plagued your country for more than 30 years. As you are aware, it is the consensus of the international community that while the Government of Angola has recently acted against provisions of the Lusaka Accord, and there have been police abuses of UNITA supporters, UNITA bears primary responsibility for the breakdown in the Lusaka peace process, and the drift towards war.

We would therefore urge you now to dismiss any hope of achieving your political objectives through military action. After more than two decades of intermittent civil war, full, immediate and unambiguous compliance with the Lusaka peace process is the only viable option for UNITA's continued survival as a political entity.

The present situation is precarious. Only you can help reverse it by contact President Dos Santos urgently to discuss how UNITA can conclude the peace process, and agreeing on immediate steps needed to avert war. This is UNITA's last opportunity to secure a legitimate and constructive role in the Angolan body politic. If you do not respond by taking irreversible steps, such as allowing the extension of state administration throughout Angola and full demilitarization, we and others will be left with no other conclusion than that you do not want peace.

Finally, we would note that the international community will condemn in the strongest terms a decision by UNITA to go to war, in disregard of the considerable efforts of the international community to preserve peace. Moreover, our Governments will not tolerate any attempt by UNITA to target foreign nationals or commercial enterprises as part of any action against the Government of Angola.

Dr. Savimbi, it is still not too late to save UNITA followers and the people of Angola generally from the horrors and devastation of another full-scale war. We urge you to take the high road and honour your commitments to the Lusaka Protocol in a final attempt to give peace a chance.

Madeleine K. ALBRIGHT	Igor IVANOV	Jaime GAMA
Secretary of State	Minister of Foreign Affairs	Minister of Foreign Affairs
United States of America	Russian Federation	Portugal